

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 7-9 and enter new claims 11-14 as follows:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a random mixture of oligonucleotides which is resistant to preventing self-annealing among random mixtures of oligonucleotides comprising the steps of ~~forming a solution of~~ selecting a random mixture of oligonucleotides which are 6-mers to 8-mers and drying said mixture solution.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7 wherein the mixture solution is dried by freeze-drying.
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7 wherein the mixture solution also contains at least one of: a polymerase enzyme; a supply of nucleotides for chain extension; a labeled nucleotide; a dye; a stabilizer; and a buffer.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the random mixture of oligonucleotides is of 6-mer oligonucleotides.

11. (New) In a method of forming a random mixture of oligonucleotides the improvement comprising the steps of selecting a random mixture of oligonucleotides which are 6-mers to 8-mers and drying said mixture.

12. (New) The method of claim 11 wherein the mixture is dried by freeze-drying.

13. (New) The method of claim 11 wherein the mixture also contains at least one of: a polymerase enzyme; a supply of nucleotides for chain extension; a labeled nucleotide; a dye; a stabilizer; and a buffer.

14. (New) The method of claim 11 wherein the random mixture of oligonucleotides is of 6-mer oligonucleotides.